

# TOC H JOURNAL

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*Contributions must reach the Editor not later than the Tenth of the month previous to issue.*

*No apologies are offered for the small size of the JOURNAL this month, in view of the 96-page Supplement which accompanies it.*

## CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING—Continued

READERS will remember that the Annual Meeting of the Central Council held on April 23, and reported in the May JOURNAL, was unable, for the first time in its history, to complete its agenda in a single afternoon. The Council, therefore, adjourned until May 21 when it assembled again in London. Its proceedings, as is customary, were prefaced by a short service for Councillors in All Hallows, where their thoughts and prayers were specially concerned with the work of Toc H Overseas, the main subject of the adjourned meeting. The Council then moved across to Forty-Two, Trinity Square. 63 Councillors were present and a number of visitors from overseas, as well as members of the staff.

Most sincere regret was felt that LORD FORSTER was unable to be present to take the chair, as he had to undergo another operation on the previous day. A message of affectionate greeting was signed by the Councillors and forwarded to him.\* The chair was taken by Major-General Sir REGINALD ("Reggie") MAY.

### The Work of Toc H Overseas

DAVID BOYLE (Central Executive) who had brought forward, and spoken to, a motion on Toc H Overseas at the previous session of the Council on April 23, was also unable to be present: he had very suddenly had to go abroad, owing to ill-health.

PETER MONIE (Hon. Administrator) brought the Council a personal message from David Boyle, and asked leave, on his behalf, to substitute for the original resolution one which had been drawn up, after very considerable discussion, by the Central Executive. He said that David Boyle's first draft of a resolution had proposed the establishment of an endowment fund for Toc H overseas; in the revised form in which it came before the Council on April 23 it had not mentioned finance at all. But the real problem *was* money—hence the resolution in its new form. "The Executive," he continued, "have for several years been following a policy which I think was inevitable and in the long run right. If the Endowment Appeal had been a *complete* success, undoubtedly sufficient money would have been available both for home and for overseas. But it was not a complete success. At that time Toc H was growing faster and faster and we were compelled to concentrate on the 'home front'; at the same time challenging the home Areas to raise money so that money might be available for overseas. And the response to that challenge is coming.

In point of fact, this last year, difficult as it was, would have shown a surplus if all the Areas had done as well as the best; if all had come up to the standard we should have had a surplus for overseas. We could not do anything for overseas unless we got in completely

\* Lord Forster, who is making a good recovery from his operation, thus replied to Tubby: "I was so touched and cheered by the Round Robin of sympathy and good wishes from the Council on Saturday, and I am glad to hear that the Resolution was duly carried. I wish I could have been there, and felt a regular shirker in letting my vile body interfere."

new money or sent some of the staff at home abroad and did not fill up their places. I think the policy we adopted when the Endowment Appeal failed was inevitable, and I think it is gradually beginning to work and is succeeding, but I agree also that it will take a long time before it provides sufficient money for overseas. Therefore we are bound to accelerate the provision of staff for overseas if we possibly can. I recommend very strongly the first part of the resolution which challenges the Executive Committee to raise from new sources money for overseas. The last part explains the ways in which such money would be used: the last part is essential and vital. If we appeal for money outside we *must* be in a position to say that Toc H itself is doing all it can. Several Areas have shown quite plainly that they can do what has been asked of them. If we pass this resolution other Areas may be brought up to the standard of financial 'self-reliance' to which they have been challenged.

"Two points David Boyle has asked me to mention specially. One is that he attaches great importance to the reference made in his resolution, and repeated in a slightly different form in this one, to the Prince of Wales' appeal for service. He feels strongly that to develop the work of Toc H overseas is a practical means of giving effect to what His Royal Highness desires in the way of neighbourly service. David Boyle also wishes to stress his suggestion that certain Areas at home should, so to speak, adopt an area overseas and carry a man on their staff for work over there.

"I do not believe that if we pass this resolution anything miraculous is going to happen, but I do think we shall have greater weight behind us than hitherto, and I hope that we shall achieve ultimately for Toc H overseas as much as we have begun to achieve for Toc H at home. I formally ask leave to withdraw the original resolution and substitute that which is before you."

Leave was given, and TUBBY formally seconded the resolution, which was as follows:—

*"That this Council, recognising the urgent need of assisting Toc H Overseas to secure adequate whole-time staff, and regarding the development of Toc H in the British Dominions and Colonies in particular as one of the most practical ways of responding to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' appeal for service, urges the Executive to endeavour to raise from new sources a fund to be applied in any of the following ways:—*

*"(i) in Subsidies or 'Grants in aid' to 'Areas' of Toc H overseas to assist them in maintaining whole-time staff approved by the Central Executive or in the direct payment of such staff for a limited time;*

*"(ii) on the Salaries of men employed, or proposed to be employed on Toc H work overseas, while under training in this country, and on their travelling and other expenses.*

*"That the Council records its conviction that at least in the case of the larger Areas overseas, the need cannot adequately be met unless two whole-time men, one a padre and one a layman, are appointed.*

*"That the Council further pledges itself to complete the achievement of financial self-reliance in the Areas at home, to the end that the surplus resources of Headquarters, at present more than absorbed by the needs of those Areas, may be available, in whole or in part, to assist Toc H Overseas."*

It was perhaps inevitable that discussion on a long and complex resolution such as this should in itself be long and complicated. The next two hours produced a bewildering series of amendments and riders to amendments, which proposed to omit some phrases of the resolution, to alter their wording, to change the order in which they occurred, or to substitute something altogether new. Reference to some of the main points follow.

STANLEY BERWICK (South Eastern Area) proposed an amendment to omit the reference to the Prince of Wales' appeal for service, which, he felt, was directed to work that lay nearest and not specially applicable to Toc H work overseas. CHARLES WAKE (London Area) seconded him, adding that the phrase "in the British Dominions and Colonies" excluded our fellow-countrymen in South America, for instance, to whom we had a strong moral obligation. KEITH FRASER (London Area), speaking a little later, added to this the international work of Toc H which he regarded as most important. The real job of Toc H overseas was to build bridges between men of all races. I. CALDWELL (London Area) supported Keith.

PADRE H. B. ELLISON (Chief Overseas Commissioner) expressed his profound gratitude to David Boyle for having raised a question of which Toc H at home was beginning to see the great importance. The development of Toc H overseas had now reached a very difficult stage: it had outgrown the possibility of being run by a completely volunteer staff. He quoted some remarks by L. G. Farmer (Federal Registrar of Toc H Australia) from *The Link*, as follows: "Surely Toc H in Australia has reached a stage when it must face honestly and squarely the problem of adequate paid administration. The movement in most States is growing apace, with the natural result of an increasing volume of work, not merely of the office routine variety, but real, solid, administrative work. In these days of stress and worry those who are in workaday billets have to pay 100 per cent. attention to those billets if they wish to hold them, and so they have not the time which they may have had in the past to devote to Toc H administration. Love it as they do, and will continue to love, they must think first of all of the job they are paid to do—that is only ordinary honesty. Voluntary help is invaluable, and we earnestly hope that it will always be available, but Toc H is no longer the small job it was six years ago. It has grown to the stage when its affairs are entitled to the undivided attention of qualified men. My experience in the Federal Office of Toc H was that the most satisfactory working relations existed with those states that were not wholly dependent on voluntary help. Let it not be thought that this is any reflection on the noble band of voluntary helpers. Heaven forbid such a thought. We are more than grateful for what they do. But we cannot ask them to shoulder all the responsibilities Toc H inherits as it grows. I have always held that staff men should be under one central control, and available for use in any state where their services may be most needed from time to time. In a country as large as Australia the Federal idea is difficult to maintain, and always will be until members can be taught that Toc H reaches beyond their own unit and their own State. An exchange of staff men between Australia and British Headquarters for periods of sufficient length would be a boon to the work here and is an objective towards which we should strive."

Continuing, Harry Ellison said that he would be sorry if the paragraph of the resolution which seemed to restrict the idea of service simply to the British Commonwealth of Nations, went out from the Council as it stood. Many people overseas would think the Council parochial in its outlook. As regards paragraph 4, he thought that wherever possible the men should be chosen by Toc H overseas and duly approved of by the Central Executive. He thought it valuable that the point should be stressed that they wanted men Canadian or South African born to be trained here and sent back as leaders to their respective countries. As regards Paragraph 5, he would like to suggest something which might possibly avoid the resentment some overseas members might feel at the idea of being 'spoon-fed' from England. He suggested adding to the words "that the surplus resources may be available to assist Toc H Overseas" the words "until such time as the overseas areas themselves attain in their turn financial self-reliance." In conclusion, he hoped they would include the mercantile marine, which was an essential part of their overseas work.

"One man must therefore be a layman always; but on the other hand, the lay solution will not suffice—there must also be a minister or a priest. These two must be great friends, who choose each other. If you build only with a clergyman as your one servant, Toc H will soon be clerical; if you build only with a layman, Toc H will sooner or later become an alternative to the various Churches. We must have both in harness, if we hold our tradition.

"Now for the application overseas. Two steps are necessary this afternoon: first, we must take the step of common justice to the overseas developments, which are the bravest building in Toc H. We owe—in last year's Balance Sheet—nearly £500 to overseas, which ought to have been spent on overseas developments, but was kept back for urgent needs at home. This was because home areas did not even pay for what they were receiving. Some of them groan and grouse unless they have fairly constant series of visitors from Headquarters, but some of the overseas areas which we are considering this afternoon have never had a visitor at all since they were first begun by some itinerant apostle eight years ago. Consider Singapore and the Malay States, where I spent just one fortnight in 1925: less than 100 members paid £129 into the Prince's Endowment Fund, but they have never had a visit since. Toc H Ceylon is similarly generous and almost as neglected.

"Such neglect cannot be excused or justified—it can but be acknowledged and amended.

"Now for the process of amending it: our first main job is to pick out two pairs and send them East and West until they meet; this should be done in 1933. The whole round world must be linked up again; the going must be slow, deliberate, without too definite a time-table; the object must then be only just the visit and encouragement—although this itself is an important item—but that the men must arrange to send men back for training to Great Britain and to Flanders. Nothing can take the place of this arrangement. Hostages must come home, until we have at least a dozen here.

"These home-coming students of Toc H must not be parcelled out to Areas for all their time at home; they must be gathered, for some months at least beneath a great leader: someone to teach them God, and thought, and action. There should, I think, be a Franciscan College attached to one or other of the Universities; a place where they could live and study something beyond Toc H, but fundamental to its true expression. We must build up a reservoir, a 'citadel' (in the old Salvation Army phrase), to which these men can come; from which they can return to pour, not secretarial experience, but consecrated thought and energy into the channels of Toc H year after year. If we build otherwise towards some lesser goal than first was known or seen, we shall be building a Society—we shall not build the Kingdom of our Lord.

"About the question of the cost: I definitely disown any attempt at working it out in detail. The one thing we must reckon with is the Divine Good-will, which will not be bestowed continually unless we are as brave as we have been. Leadership in Toc H should never fall below the minimum of one whole-time man relying for his livelihood upon 500 members. If each man must be known—as each man must be—we must make shipwreck of some lives as the world contemplates 'careers' and so on. We must not hesitate to claim good men because we cannot see the way to guarantee their maintenance for life. If Toc H is to grow, as you and I believe, there will be work for all of them ahead.

"During the last ten years, four whole-time men have become more than forty, but only two of these are overseas. By 1935, those who survive must be committed to a membership of at least 50,000, perhaps more. This means 100 men on the whole-time

staff, and 50 more, I hope, sent back from overseas for training at home. These are the kind of numbers that I contemplate if Toc H is to be a worth-while thing, and not a smug Society in Britain."

Tubby added: "As regards the preamble about His Royal Highness, does it not really depend upon the one person who has not yet been consulted? It seems to me that if he would like to be associated in this way with the expansion of our work overseas let him be so associated. If he does not want it, let us cut it out—but let us ask him which he prefers. It is for him to judge, not us."

#### THE VOTE IS TAKEN

The Chairman then put in succession the amendments of HERBERT LEGGATE (moved by S. R. EVANS, Eastern Area); of STANLEY BERWICK; and of T. BAKER. These were all lost. *He then put the Resolution, which was carried by a large majority.*

#### The Accounts

The presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts had also been postponed from the meeting on April 23. WM. A. HURST (Hon. Treasurer of Toc H) received a very warm welcome as he rose to speak. He began, amid laughter, to comment on the usual 'unorthodoxy' of Toc H. They had met on a delightful Spring afternoon—to discuss accounts; auditors usually attended on such occasions—and none were present; the men who knew most about the accounts usually had something to say—and Mus had said nothing. It was all most unorthodox. There were some things their Finance Committee ventured to do which would be condemned by any business man, but in a movement like theirs they could not possibly hope, at any rate during the early days, to conduct their affairs on a strict and accepted financial basis.

In the Revenue Account members' subscriptions in 1931 were down by nearly £140. Toc H Builders showed an increase of nearly £700. Branch and Group subscriptions were up by £1,300. The total income from those three sources during 1931 was roughly £2,000 more than in the previous year. He thought that a wonderful achievement. Their donations were also up by £700. Again he thought a wonderful achievement, having regard to the prevailing conditions. The point he wanted to bring home was that it would help very materially if Branches and Groups would pay headquarters a little earlier and a little oftener. It would prevent their borrowing money from the bank upon which they had to pay interest, and in the majority of cases the money already in the hands of Branches and Groups might just as well be in the coffers at Headquarters.

He said that the Executive and the Finance Committee had had some very difficult financial problems to deal with. He thought the Central Executive, and the Area Executives in particular should give opportunities to some of the younger men in order to prepare them for some of the more important work which they would inevitably be called upon to do at headquarters in the future. They welcomed new blood on the Executive. They welcomed criticism, so long as it was constructive. They had many difficult problems to deal with, and it was absolutely essential that the Executive and the Finance Committee should have the trust of every member of the Council.

Last year they had a deficit, and for a society like Toc H it was probably a good thing to have a deficit. They had been going through difficult times, and they were a long way from being out of the wood yet. This country and the world was very ill, spiritually, morally, financially very ill. He was not a pessimist, and he thought they and the world would pull through, but they were going to have a hard time during the next twelve

months. Now was the time to lay the foundation of work overseas. Money would not come easily for it; it was not coming easily anywhere, and this year was going to be a very difficult year, and next year, too. There was undoubtedly improvement; there were signs of recovery everywhere, but the effect would not be felt in his opinion until 1934. Therefore he considered it important that they should go back and instil into the minds of members of Toc H in every Branch and Group the absolute necessity of producing as far as they were concerned more money, even in so small a sum as 3d. or 6d. at a time. He was a business man and was in a position to judge of conditions. His business was insurance and its income depended upon the trade of the world. Take the Workmen's Compensation Act. The premiums of that Act were based on wages. The wages of the world to-day so far as British companies were concerned were millions and millions down compared with what they were three years ago. Take fire insurance; the warehouses of the world to-day were practically empty except for one or two of the main commodities. Take motor-cars: there were more motor-cars and motor lorries laid up in this country than ever before. He mentioned those facts to show that he had means of ascertaining in what way the world was sick. Could they wonder that there was unemployment, lack of spending power, and the necessity for working hard. He took into his office every year 100 new juniors from school: he had not been able to employ one since last July. There were thousands of youngsters in London to-day who could not get a job. He thought those conditions should make them, loving Toc H as they did, put their backs to the wall during the next eighteen months or two years, do all they could within their movement to keep their finances straight and so prepare for overseas development in the near future.

Finally, he paid a tribute to various members of the Staff, with a special word for Mus. The new system of keeping the accounts which Mus had introduced was the finest possible system they could have, and he was undoubtedly the most capable fellow at accounts which he, the speaker, had struck for a long time. If they had any questions, let them ask Mus.

W. J. MUSTERS (Registrar) was then persuaded on to the platform, amid great cheers, and succeeded very neatly in 'getting his own back' on the Hon. Treasurer.

For home-going Prayers, Tubby led the Councillors in the saying aloud of the four prayers printed in the *Toc H Diary*, two of which have special intention for work and friends overseas. A number of the Councillors afterwards supped together at the Press Club.

## MULTUM IN PARVO

✽ The CENTRAL GUARD OF THE LAMP give notice that Groups which intend to apply for PROMOTION TO BRANCH STATUS this year should arrange for their application to reach AREA GUARDS or local EXECUTIVES before July 15.

✽ OVERSEAS MEMBERS, home on leave this Summer, and others are reminded of the Eastern Area Festival at Cambridge on July 9-10. All information from R. E. Wraith, 7, Hills Road, Cambridge.

✽ Following on "*Work with the Unemployed*," issued in connection with the Prince's Call, the National Council of Social Service have published an excellent pamphlet

on "WORK WITH BOYS." This is commended to all Jobmasters and other members for use among men considering such types of service. To the general public the price of the pamphlet is 6d. a copy; by arrangement with the N.C.S.S., copies can be obtained by Toc H members from the Registrar at Headquarters at the following prices, post free: 12, 3/6d.; 25, 6/6d.; 50, 12/0d.; 100, 22/0d.

✽ Congratulations to the following Groups on promotion to Branch status: BRAMHALL (North Western Area), CHISLEHURST and LEATHERHEAD (South Eastern Area).



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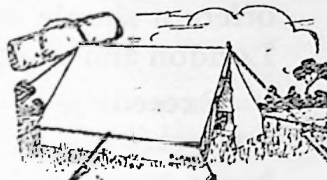
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## DESPATCHES OF THE MONTH

*Despatches from the Southern and West Midlands Areas and Ireland will appear next month.*

### From the Eastern Area

IT would be ideal to write these notes as though they really were about one Area. But so definitely—so gloriously and unmistakably—different are its two component parts, that this seems somehow scarcely proper. Toc H, like cricket, is supremely sensitive to its setting, and changes subtly yet surely as it passes from place to place across this ever-changing land. Neville Cardus should write of this particular aspect of Toc H—so wonderfully does he contrast the infinite varieties of the game that is his ruling passion; the dour, grim Battle of the Roses in the seething pit of Bramall Lane or Old Trafford set among the roaring, partisan crowd and the smoking chimney stacks of industrial England; the pleasant, pastoral graces of Kent and Sussex on the lovely grounds of Canterbury and Hove; the polished, immaculate dignity of the game at Headquarters, where the culture and tradition of Lords breathes through its every movement—the same game, and yet—how widely and how splendidly different! So would that sensitive pen delight to draw Toc H in all its many moods—the dour, reliable units of the industrial North; the knowing, metropolitan ways of Toc H London; the slow, deliberate searching for Toc H of the East Anglian countryman. And so can we, though not blessed with “Cricketer’s” fine fluency—and though, alas, Essex is our only first-class county—follow out the workings of his mind in our Society, and take delight in the innumerable facets of the character of Toc H to-day.

It is not difficult to feel this kind of difference between East Anglia and the Home Counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, though the gulf between them is no more than the thin line of a county boundary, and though, if one set about it deliberately, it would be difficult to discover where one ended and the other began. But East Anglia suggests wide acres and tremendous skies, marshes, flats and fens, with unexpected glimpses of a beauty little-known and thus unspoilt; of pleasant farms and villages and one old, lovely city. Whilst Hertfordshire, though more wildly beautiful in many places still, is an hour or less from the hub of the Universe, and already the Octopus is stretching out its tentacles along its lanes—the omnibus country services have prospered much of late; and so the vision conjured up is one of growth, activity, movement, and the building of London’s homes. And Toc H knows this difference very well.

#### East Anglia

The “bridge-head” formed in Norfolk by the Norwich District is slowly pushing westward, and before many years have elapsed Toc H should be right through the county. The formation of the Group at *East Dereham*—now firmly under weigh—has been an important step in this pushing forth west of Norwich, as the town lies in direct line with the lonely outpost of *King’s Lynn* in the extreme western corner of Norfolk. A little Grope at Holt will, if it becomes a Group, form another spoke in the wheel which radiates from Norwich. Meanwhile, in the more thickly populated coastal district in the east, the Grope at Gorleston is gaining ground, helped by near neighbours at *Bradwell* and *Great Yarmouth*. For the rest, although Holt and Gorleston are the only two recognisable “grope,” it is worth recording that in recent months the District Secretary’s car has descended with its load of missionaries upon places with such fantastic names as North Tuddenham and Little Plumstead—and for more than this it is unreasonable to ask. There is little in the work of individual families that can well be told by one outside the District, though from all accounts the Annual General Meeting of the *Norwich Branch* was an event of what has now come to be its customary importance in the city. *Norwich Branch* know how to keep

a semi-public meeting (or super-guest-night) as much alight with the spirit of Toc H as the finest and most intimate of family gatherings. The second half of the A.G.M. takes place a week later, and is concerned with "brass tacks" and the election of officers; this idea is perhaps worth passing on—it has worked wonderfully well in *Norwich* for several years now. The *Bradwell* Group has lived up to its reputation by taking the initiative in planning a Rally and Training Week-end for the whole District in and about its own romantic mill. This will happen on June 4-5, and (weather, of course, being favourable) will be one of the "high spots" of the year. The spreading of Toc H in Suffolk, further south, is signified by the division which has had to be made in the old East and West Suffolk District. East Suffolk alone will still comprise two Branches and three Groups, all centering more or less conveniently upon the town of Ipswich; one active Grope at Aldeburgh and two tentative beginnings at Stowmarket and Hadleigh may some day add to this number. West Suffolk District is a more experimental affair, consisting so far only of Groups at *Bury-St.-Edmund's* and *Sudbury*, with work to do at Haverhill, Newmarket and Mildenhall. These three Gropes are especially welcome from a "bird's eye" point of view of the Area, as they do a little to break the long, long stretches of road between *Cambridge* and their nearest East Anglian neighbours in Norfolk or Suffolk.

The Colchester District (as a District, of course, and not as individual families) still goes on a little haltingly, though one of the finest fillips in the whole of the Eastern Counties was recently provided by the vagaries of a small indomitable team at *Burnham-on-Crouch* (now a Group). Having been twice discouraged by the District Committee during 1931 in their aspirations for a Rushlight, they present themselves in full force at the January meeting, to the extreme horror of all constitutionally-minded people present, carrying the day at the third attempt by sheer weight of numbers, and scattering to the four winds of heaven Dist. Comm. Const. Sec. 1, para. 2, note 3, or some prosaic ruling of that ilk. A meeting later in the year was also memorable, when their Rushlight was given to them in their quaint Headquarters in the Clock Tower, Burnham—close on a hundred people from all Essex made a rare and wonderful impression on that quiet little place.

### In Three Shires

In Hertfordshire, again, progress is typified by a divided District, and Toc H has now gone right through the county under the ægis of the East, West and Mid-Hertfordshire Districts—save that the last-named revolted against their outrageous appellation and now call themselves by the old familiar name of St. Alban's District. Before the division took place one of our now rare District Guest-nights was held at *St. Alban's* on March 12; Paul Slessor was to have been with us for the occasion, but was unhappily prevented by illness from coming down; his place was well-filled at short notice by Philip Rabone from London (and other places). Barkis spent a delightful Sunday with the East Hertfordshire District at *Goff's Oak* on May Day, 1932—the local Group surpassed themselves as hosts, and new life is stirring in the District from the spirit that this day infused. The Luton District also have held a District Guest-night, though this was some way back in December. The Harpenden Players helped at the gathering in the evening with a performance of "Brother Wolf," and Padre Appleton let off some interesting reminiscences of the early days of Toc H at Knutsford. Generally speaking, though, Guest-nights on this scale have been very few throughout the Area during the past winter, in accordance with the general policy of "drawing in our horns" financially in consideration of the ordinary member's pocket; also, most families are keen to attend the Cambridge Festival in July and have been conserving their resources for that. This District is now composed—rather oddly—of no less than five Branches, and only two Groups, though this number should be swollen before the year is out by new arrivals. One interesting little Grope it that at the Henlow R.A.F. Home

Aircraft Depot, which, if it "matures," will be the second Service unit in this part of the Area—the other, of course, being the R.A.F. Group at *Halton* (Bucks.); *Harpenden* have hopes of planting Toc H in the near-by village of Redbourne, and a number of *Letchworth* members living at Baldock will no doubt break away in the course of time. Our small beginnings in Buckinghamshire are making headway, and may in time create a new "North Buckinghamshire District." *Stony Stratford* has proved a healthy child of the old Branch at *Wolverton*, and Swanbourne and Aylesbury also have got going on sure foundations. The position here is rather strange, as *Halton* and Aylesbury (both in Buckinghamshire) are part of the so-called *West Hertfordshire District*, and the men of Swanbourne have linked themselves with Luton. There remains, hybrid between East Anglia and Bedfordshire, the queer District known as "Cambridge," weakened now by the loss of *Peterborough*, who have returned again to the East Midlands, taking with them a cluster of newly-born Groups—*Fletton*, *Oundle*, *Spalding*—with whom John Mallet hopes to found a "model District." Meanwhile, *Cambridge* and *Bedford*—with *Papworth* in between—look at each other a little breathlessly and wonder what has happened. *Peterborough* prospered most when this experimental District was created, and have gathered their own District round themselves in far less time than the two remaining Branches can hope to do. Both *Bedford* and *Cambridge* have internal demands upon their strength which make the work of "missionising" very hard.

Thus concludes, as always in these letters, the sketchiest and most unsatisfactory outline of the Eastern Area. It is written of necessity in broad generalities, and treats only of Toc H from the viewpoint of District work and extension. It is impossible to say anything adequate of what really matters most—the work of single units; jobs done, friendship fostered, problems thought out in the light of the Toc H life. Of these we must confess comparative ignorance—for no one *knows* the "realliest" things outside the compass of one tiny group—and stay silent—save to mention two jobs that every District alike is trying to study and to act upon; the first, to help, as Toc H can help, the elementary needs of unemployed men; the second—a job, this, for country units—to co-operate with the Servers of the Blind League in providing country holidays for poor blind folk from London Clubs. But here, again, ignorance of what is being done over the wide field of the whole Area makes it difficult to discriminate and to pick out any one unit's work for lengthier description.

### The Cambridge Festival

A word concerning Cambridge on July 9 and 10 may not be out of place, for here for the first time we shall feel as though we really were an Area. East will be able to meet West in the very widest sense, for though the date is still—at the time of writing—some way off, we know that we shall be privileged to have with us members of Toc H from India, Canada, New Zealand, Western Australia and New South Wales; and many more, we hope, are still to write and say they will be there. And as for the members who are to be our Guests and speakers, there is, if anything, an embarrassment of riches. If only Cambridge will consent to look its best, and shake off the dull and threatening skies which have accompanied it for most of the year so far, this Eastern Area Festival should be quite unique among the many our members have known and loved. If the weather will be kind, the town could impart into our gathering a little "something that the others haven't got," as the B.P. advertisement puts it. The haunting beauty of King's Chapel, the green openness of the place itself, the delicious glimpses of College Courts and unsuspected byways, the unrivalled loveliness of the Backs in Summer—all these, in spite of the extreme simplicity which will mark the Festival itself, should make the time a memorable one for those who can come. We hope sincerely that all who can will come, not as guests, but as hosts, for that is the privilege of the Eastern Area, and not of those who organise the Festival in Cambridge.

## From East Midlands and Lincolnshire Area

Since the last Area dispatch appeared in print, Sider has ceased to be our Area Padre after five years at Leicester. The good wishes of all members go to him in his new task at Walton Gaol, Liverpool, where, as Chaplain of the prison, he will be working alongside another member, Gilbert Hair, Deputy Governor and local chairman of Toc H. As many as possible of the Area assembled so say farewell at a supper on February 19. Few people will realise the very considerable development in the Family which has taken place during Sider's five years' "reign." When he came in January, 1927, there were but 16 Branches and Groups in the Area. The whole idea of District Committees (or "Teams," as some prefer to call them) was only just beginning and had not as yet reached the Midlands. Since then, although the Derbyshire District has been transferred to the West Midlands Area, there has been a steady and continuous growth in Toc H, so that there are to-day no less than 48 Branches and Groups working in eight Districts. This, in addition to representing a 300 per cent development, has meant the change from a number of isolated units into eight self-contained and increasingly self-reliant Districts. It is a record of which any man might well be proud.

In May the Rev. P. Sands ("Sandy") and Alan Cowling arrived to act as Padre and Secretary respectively. The former comes with an experience of Scouting, Toc H and Y.M.C.A. work at home and overseas. The latter is joyfully received from Yorkshire, where he has been the Secretary for the past three years. John Mallet, who has been Acting Secretary for the past six months, moves to Nottingham, where his special responsibility will be the foundation of a Mark in that City—a development somewhat overdue.

### A Plan Completed

An Area Executive has been formed and the following were nominated by the Central Executive to hold office until March 31, 1933: W. A. Brockington, H. C. Bowman, G. M. Ellison, J. Emmerson, J. Gibson, E. N. Gray, R. E. Holme, J. Kennington, C. E. Larman, R. E. Martin, C. Osborne, P. P. Perry, Rev. P. Sands, E. F. S. Whitworth. The formation of this team marks the completion of the plans arising from the Northern Conference and carried out gradually throughout Toc H in this country since 1929.

In March the Area was privileged to receive a visit from Tubby. District Guest-nights were held at *Coalville*, *Nottingham* and *Horncastle*. The family assembled received much inspiration and help from Tubby. They also welcomed "Tosher" Elliott, of Toc H India, who did something to dispel the ignorance about our fellow members overseas. Hubert Secretan spent a week talking to the Schools in the Area and encouraging members in their study of the boy and Boys' Club work.

This visit followed most appropriately on the Prince of Wales' Albert Hall Appeal. No less than 32 Branches and Groups assembled to hear the Patron's National Call to Service and in a large number of cases Toc H was responsible for the fact that these meetings were held. The subsequent developments have as yet been rather disappointing. One result, however, has been the formation of a Rural Community Council in the County of Kesteven. In several places, closer co-operation between the local Juvenile Organisations has come about and the possibility of a local Social Council is being considered.

New Groups have been sanctioned at *Bozeat*, *Fletton*, *Oundle* and *Spalding*, and as a result of this development a new District has been formed centering on *Peterborough* and including that Branch and the three neighbouring Groups. Though growth has been mushroom, leadership is sound and there is every hope that this extension in the Fen District will continue during the coming autumn.

## From Scotland

As we review the past six months we see progress. The numerical strength of Toc H (Scotland) is 29 Units. By this, of course, we mean recognised Units, and merely mention, in casual fashion, our 12 "Groves". Bob Sawers, in his Report, remarks that the increase in the number of Units is due, almost entirely, to the work of District Committees. Being a District Officer ourselves we simply had to quote this! Seriously, however, the course of instruction laid down for new Units has been founded on very solid principles and has been standardised by the Scottish Guard of the Lamp. The Birthday Festival for Scotland happened just after our last notes went to Press, but we hereby pronounce it a great success, the spirit of all attending being of the highest order. Toc H (Scotland) is faced with a very serious problem. Trade depression and lack of "bawbees" (money) must be taken into account when arranging Festivals. Also, there arises the question of Staff. To run a successful Area Festival in Scotland means using all our whole-time Staff (he is Bob Sawers) and a team of men who ought to be out doing pioneer work. We feel that the time and labour spent on Festival arrangements are not justified, and that, as an alternative, District (or combined Districts) Festivals should be given a trial. Were our Area Secretary a dog with the proverbial nine tails, he would wag every one of them all day and every day. Why? Because he is so proud of the fact that Toc H (Scotland), given only eight months, succeeded in raising a full year's quota of £144, despite unemployment and other equally depressing conditions. Let us be accurate—the quota was exceeded by £3 8s. 10d. Our good friends over the Border, after offering their congratulations, will, no doubt, unite in singing "Trumpeter," yet modesty was ever a Scottish characteristic failing!

It must be reported how well the *Northern Light* has been accepted in all parts of our land and over the border too. The co-operation of the membership, that is so necessary for a venture of this description, has to a large extent been realised, and when all the Family in Scotland extend their unseen friendship, it will be an instrument of extraordinary value for the furtherance of our aims. We must increase our circulation, then the power of the press will be directed into a virtuous circle.

"Gane, like Alexander . . ."

Even in the *most* humble sheelin' on the Highland hillside, genuine hospitality awaits the traveller. The best, be it ever so poor, is the lot of the man who enters a Scottish home. We welcomed, with great pleasure, the flying visit of A. S. Greenacre (Greeno). Short as the visit was, we learned to know and love him. Stuart Greenacre—shades of Prince Charlie—we invested with a necktie of Royal Stuart Tartan. We clasped him to our collective bosom. We offered him work and he lapped it up and demanded more. (He got it!). His visit, his advice at the week-end training course, his mannerisms, his "I dunno," all endeared him to us, and, on his departure, we sang with deep feeling, and real meaning, "Will ye no' come back again." Rex Calkin was the next "victim." We enticed him to Irvine, staged a week-end course, and, like "Greeno," Rex gave us sound advice and practical help in the setting of our house in order. Rex remained with us only one week-end. To him, probably, it seemed a lifetime; to us but a moment.

In Scotland the problem of the L.W.H. was mainly theoretical as the Units of L.W.H. are only six in number. Taking a wide view, however, each Unit of Toc H in Scotland met and discussed the Three Propositions. The Districts carried on the good work, so that, at the appropriate moment, our representatives to Central Council knew the opinions of all Units and Districts, and thus were prepared for any contingency. Some of the younger Units seemed to consider there was no problem arising, but, in spite of this voiced opinion, they gave wholehearted consideration to the question as affecting Toc H, the World.

## The Districts

Scotland is sub-divided into eight parts, seven Districts, and a collection of isolated Units. The West of Scotland District covers a tremendous amount of ground, and the hard-working District Secretary has applied for permission to form two sub-Districts. At the moment his work lies in two different counties, Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, and rumour has it that he never sleeps at home but dozes in local trains instead. Glasgow District has added two new Units to its number and we greet our "wee brothers" *Maryhill* and *Polmadie*. Lanarkshire District has also added new Units to the Family in Lanark, Blantyre, and Larkhall. Stirlingshire District has set the heather on fire and formed Groves at Denny, Bonnybridge, and Hags. Edinburgh District has a flourishing youngster in Portobello, and has adopted North Berwick. Aberdeenshire Provisional District has no "burnt offering," nor has Caithness Provisional District. All the Districts are working steadily and in complete harmony for the ultimate benefit of the whole Movement. Bless 'em!

## The Units

As the Units are allowed to "spread" in the new "Northern Light" we shall confine our remarks to outstanding features. *Ayr* Group have taken over the library in the County Hospital. Cathcart rooms are at the disposal of the Old Men of the District and the veterans enjoy themselves very thoroughly. *Dundee* has re-dedicated its membership and is going ahead with renewed vigour. *Edinburgh* Branch has installed a panel of St. Andrew in the Chapel at Candlemaker Row. This panel is the work of one of its own members and is beautiful. *Falkirk* outgrew its floor-space and is now "quartered" in the same rooms. *Glasgow* Branch still flourishes and gives of its best for the spreading in other localities. *Greenock* is a stronghold of ardent fellows upheld by a fine constitution (their own private joke). *Irvine*, situated in a depressed industrial area, continues to flourish despite many set-backs. *Motherwell* deserve great praise for a magnificent job. Every Sunday morning the blokes make breakfasts for all the poorest kiddies of the town. As this is a hard-hit steel-working town, the candidates for food are numerous. Port-Glasgow Groves are quite unique. Of the original Grove all save two were unemployed. Despite this drawback, they gave a hefty "Burns' Supper" to the Old Men of the Town. Their latest job was the supplying of white-painted walking-sticks to blind persons. And so we go on.

## The Scottish Pilgrimage

At Easter, most appropriately, twenty-two Scottish members went forth to "Pop" to renew their avowed intent. To quote from an article by one of the pilgrims: "Accept, gratefully, the gracious welcome, and the rest and comfort it (The Old House) offers, and drink deeply of the beauty which a perfect understanding and a great love have given to it." We would strongly recommend the Scottish members to follow this advice, and, on their return from a Pilgrimage, to pass on their experiences, more especially to the younger fellows.

## THE ELDER BRETHREN

### Percy Everett Healey: Slough, Eastbourne

FADRE HEALEY, when Chaplain of the Imperial Services College at Windsor, did invaluable spade-work in starting Toc H in Slough. In 1930 he became Curate of St. Anne's, Eastbourne, and was associated with Toc H there. He passed over on April 20.

### Sydney Butcher, Jobmaster, Hawkhurst Group

THE loss, on April 20, of their first jobmaster leaves a great gap in the ranks of Hawkhurst. Sydney's humour, love and steady faith have left an example which others will long remember and try to follow.